

Remarks

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed April 29, 2003. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 are being amended and formal drawings, as described below, are being submitted. In view of the submission of the formal drawings, above amendments, and following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-8.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for failing to show an assembly like that recited in claim 2. In particular, Fig. 5 shows all (i.e. not half) of the bolts 16 on the flange 17. Claim 2 is being amended to delete the limitations of "at least half of the number" and replace the limitation of "half the bolts" with a broader limitation such that the claim is broadened to read on a coupling claimed in claim 2 as originally filed. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for failing to show an assembly like that recited in claim 8. The Office Action asserts that Fig. 2 shows the washers 14 flush with (i.e. not protruding from) the parallel faces of the body 11. A careful examination of Fig. 2 clearly shows that the washers protrude from the parallel faces of the body 11 extending between adjacent bores. Claim 8 is being amended to more clearly define the parallel faces of the body 11 from which the washers protrude. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the drawings are objected to for using inappropriate cross hatching patterns. Formal drawings accompany this amendment incorporating the appropriate cross hatching patterns. Approval of the formal drawings and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the title of the invention is objected to because it includes the word "improved." The title of the invention is being amended to delete the word "improved." Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the specification is objected to for failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.71 and 1.75(d)(1) because the detailed description fails to provide proper antecedent basis for the subject matter of claim 6. The specification is being amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6. Since the subject matter is recited in claim 6, as originally filed, no

new matter is being added. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the claims are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.75(i) because elements of the claims are not separated by line indentations. Claim 1 is being amended to separate elements of the claims by line indentations. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 7 are objected to for containing the phrase "said first-mentioned bore." Claims 1 and 7 are being amended to delete references to a "first-mentioned bore." Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 2 is objected to for reciting the limitation, "The assembly" without proper antecedent basis. Claim 2 is being amended to delete the phrase "The assembly." Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 2 is also objected to for reciting that each of the annular flanges 17 and 19 is formed with holes numbering "at least half of the number" of fastener means 12 and "half of the bolts [16]". As discussed above with respect to the drawings and claim 2, claim 2 is being amended to delete the limitations of "at least half of the number" and replace the limitation of "half the bolts" with a broader limitation such that the claim is broadened to read on a coupling claimed in claim 2 as originally filed. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 8 is objected to the limitation "proud" because it is not clear if the term "proud" is the intended recitation. Claim 8 is being amended to delete the "proud" limitation. In addition, the specification is being amended to delete the reference to the moldable material and washer means being proud of the body face. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Andra et al. (WO 99/15803). Andra et al. discloses a coupling having an annular body 10 formed of a moldable material, parallel bores formed through the body, link means 12 passing around each bore, and a bushing 16 received in each bore. Andra et al., however, does not disclose washer means on opposite sides of the link means defining end

orifices of each bore and having a peripheral edge and a peripheral formation, said peripheral formation forming at least part of said peripheral edge and engaging said moldable material.

Claim 1 of the present application claims a flexible coupling for connecting a drive to a driven shaft. The coupling includes an annular body of a moldable material and a number of parallel bores circumferentially distributed about the body, wherein each bore opens to opposite sides of the body. A plurality of link means pass around each bore. At least one of the link means of the plurality of link means extend from at least one of the bores to at least one adjacent bore in one direction from the at least one of the bores. At least one other of the link means of the plurality of link means extends from the at least one of the bores to at least one adjacent bore in another direction from the at least one of the bores. Washer means on opposite sides of the link means define end orifices of each bore. Each washer means has a peripheral edge and a peripheral formation. The peripheral formation forms at least part of the peripheral edge and engages the moldable material, such that when the body is molded to incorporate the fastener means and link means, each washer means is locked by the moldable material against displacement out of said body.

Andra et al. discloses a bushing received in a bore formed through the coupling body and collars 18, 18' that lock onto each end of the bushing. Applicant agrees that the collars could be considered washer means. However, the collars disclosed in Andra et al. do not include a peripheral formation formed in the peripheral edge, as required in claim 1. As shown in Figs. 1-14 of Andra et al., the peripheral edges of the collars are devoid of any structure whatsoever. Accordingly, the collars disclosed in Andra et al. do not include all of the limitations of the washer means in claim 1 of the present application.

Formations disclosed in Andra et al. do not satisfy the limitations of a peripheral formation forming at least part of the peripheral edge of the washer means, as required in claim 1. In Andra et al., a groove 24 is formed in the bushing for engaging the collars. However, this groove does not form at least part of the peripheral edge of the collar. Moreover, the groove disclosed in Andra et al. engages the collar, and not the moldable material forming the body, as required in claims 1 and 3 of the present application. Likewise, holes 28, 28' formed through the collars in Andra et al. do not form at least part of the peripheral edge of the collars. Accordingly, the formations disclosed in Andra et al. cannot be

considered peripheral formations forming at least part of the peripheral edge of the washer means, as required in claim 1 of the present application.

Claim 1 of the present application is being amended to recite "washer means on opposite sides of said link means defining end orifices of each bore, each washer means having a peripheral edge and a peripheral formation, said peripheral formation forming at least part of said peripheral edge and engaging said moldable material such that when the body is molded to incorporate the fastener means and link means each washer means is locked by the moldable material against displacement out of said body." This amendment clearly distinguishes the invention claimed in claim 1 from Andra et al. and all of the other cited references by requiring a peripheral formation forming at least part of the peripheral edge of the washer means and engaging the moldable material forming the body. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by Andra et al. is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 197 42 359. As in Andra et al., DE 197 42 359 discloses a coupling having an annular body formed of a moldable material, parallel bores formed through the body, link means passing around each bore, and a bushing having collars received in each bore. DE 197 42 359 does not disclose washer means on opposite sides of the link means defining end orifices of each bore and having a peripheral edge and a peripheral formation, said peripheral formation forming at least part of said peripheral edge and engaging said moldable material.

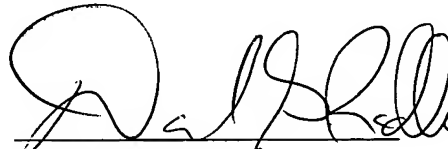
As in Andra et al., the collars forming part of the bushing in DE 197 42 359 do not have a peripheral formation forming at least part of the peripheral edge of the washer means and engaging the moldable material forming the body. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 7, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for being anticipated by DE 197 42 359 is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Andra et al. Claims 4-6 depend from 1 which is now believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over Andra et al. is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 197 42 359. Claims 4-6 depend from 1 which is now believed allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for unpatentable over DE 197 42 359 is respectfully requested.

Formal drawings including incorporating the appropriate cross hatching patterns accompany this amendment. In view of the submission of the formal drawings, above remarks, and amendments to claims 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1-8. No additional fees for filing this response are believed to be due. However, if such fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account no. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Daniel G. Radler', written over a horizontal line.

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